

CLAIMS

1. A spacer, comprising:

(a) a body having a first planar side and an opposite second planar side and including a predetermined size, shape, and thickness;

(b) said body including a bolt hole adapted to receive a bolt therein; and

(c) means for attaching said spacer to a member, said means for attaching separate from said bolt hole and adapted to prevent said spacer from rotating with respect to said bolt hole.

2. The spacer of claim 1 wherein said means for attaching includes a plurality of mounting holes through said body, said mounting holes each adapted to receive a fastener, said fastener adapted to secure said spacer to said member.

3. The spacer of claim 2 wherein said plurality of mounting holes includes three mounting holes that are equidistant

with respect to said bolt hole and wherein said bolt hole is disposed proximate a geometric center of said spacer.

4. The spacer of claim 3 wherein said predetermined shape includes a substantially cylindrical shape and wherein said bolt hole passes through a center thereof.

5. The spacer of claim 1 wherein said first planar side is parallel with respect to said second planar side.

6. The spacer of claim 5 including an intermediate shim spacer that is adapted for placement adjacent to said spacer sufficient to increase an overall thickness of said spacer and wherein said intermediate shim spacer includes a body having a first planar surface and a parallel opposite second planar surface and a thickness that is at least one-eighth of an inch and wherein said intermediate shim spacer includes a modified bolt hole and a modified means for attaching, and wherein when said intermediate shim spacer is disposed adjacent to said spacer, said modified bolt hole and said modified means for attaching align with said bolt

hole and said means for attaching of said spacer respectively.

7. The spacer of claim 5 wherein said body includes a thickness that is at least one-half of an inch.

8. The spacer of claim 1 wherein said first planar side and said second planar side are not parallel with respect to each other.

9. The spacer of claim 1 wherein said means for mounting includes a plurality of pointed protrusions disposed on said first planar side and extending therefrom, wherein a pointed end of each protrusion is disposed distally away from said first planar side.

10. The spacer of claim 9 wherein said plurality of pointed protrusions includes three pointed protrusions that are equidistant with respect to said bolt hole and wherein said bolt hole is disposed proximate a geometric center of said spacer.

11. The spacer of claim 1 wherein said bolt hole includes threads that are adapted to cooperate with threads of a bolt.

12. The spacer of claim 1 wherein said member includes a ledger board, said ledger board adapted to secure one end each of a plurality of joists, said plurality of joists adapted to support at least a portion of an exterior deck, wherein said deck is attached to a structure.

13. The spacer of claim 1 wherein said bolt hole includes threads that are adapted to cooperate with threads of a bolt and wherein said second planar surface includes at least two parallel surfaces that are adapted for rotating said spacer with a tool around a center of said bolt hole.

14. The spacer of claim 13 wherein said at least two parallel surfaces include six continuous planar surfaces and wherein said six continuous planar surfaces include three

opposite distal pairs and wherein said six continuous planar surfaces cooperate to form a hexagonal shape.

15. A method for attaching a deck ledger board to a building structure comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a spacer having a body that includes a first planar side and an opposite second planar side and which a predetermined size, shape, and thickness, and wherein said body includes a bolt hole adapted to receive a bolt therein, and including means for attaching said spacer to a ledger board, said means for attaching separate from said bolt hole and adapted to prevent said spacer from rotating with respect to said bolt hole;

(b) attaching a plurality of said spacers to one side of said ledger board;

(c) using said bolt hole in each of said plurality of said spacers as a pilot hole to drill a hole through said ledger board, said hole being of a size that is adapted to permit a bolt to pass through said ledger board and said bolt hole;

(d) placing said ledger board in a desired position adjacent to said structure;

(e) using each hole drilled in said ledger board and said bolt hole in each of said plurality of spacers as a pilot hole to drill a hole through said structure; and

(f) passing a bolt through said ledger board, said spacer, and said structure;

(g) engaging a nut with threads on an end of said bolt; and

(h) tightening said bolt with respect to said nut sufficient to secure said ledger board proximate to said structure and disposed away from said structure by a distance that is proximate the thickness of each of said spacers.